

Application No.: 10/701,953
Amendment Dated September 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action Of May 17, 2005

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the present application:

1-29 (canceled)

30. (New) A method of lubricating an inner surface of a medical container, the container being sized and shaped to receive a stopper and a plunger, said method comprising the step of depositing a lubricant on the inner surface over a limited area of the inner surface, the limited area having an axial length greater than an axial length of the stopper, and the lubricant not being deposited on the plunger.

31. (New) A method as recited by claim 30, wherein the medical container has a first opening and a second opening, and wherein said depositing step comprises depositing the lubricant on a limited area of the inner surface extending completely circumferentially around the inner wall but extending axially only from near the first opening along a distance that is less than an entire length of the inner surface.

32. (New) A method as recited by claim 30, wherein the stopper has an outer engagement surface that engages the inner surface of the container when the stopper is received by the container, said method further comprising the step of depositing lubricant on a portion of the outer engagement surface along a length that is less than an axial length of the stopper.

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33. (New) A method as recited by claim 32, wherein the stopper includes an annular rib having an outer surface, and said depositing step comprises depositing the lubricant only on the outer surface of the annular rib.

34. (New) A method as recited by claim 30, wherein the medical container has a first opening and a second opening, and wherein said depositing step comprises depositing the lubricant on a limited area of the inner surface extending completely circumferentially around the inner wall but extending axially only from near the first opening along a distance that is less than an entire length of the inner surface, the limited area having an axial length greater than an axial length of the stopper, and the lubricant not being deposited on the plunger, and wherein the stopper has an outer engagement surface that engages the inner surface of the container when the stopper is received by the container, said method further comprising the step of depositing lubricant on a portion of the outer engagement surface of the stopper along a length that is less than an axial length of the stopper.

35. (New) A medical container comprising:

a generally tubular container defining a reservoir and having a first opening and a second opening with a wall extending there between and having an inner surface;

a stopper slidably received in said container and having a surface in slidable engagement with said inner surface of said container;

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a plunger coupled to said stopper, said stopper being slidable in said container upon movement of said plunger; and

lubricant deposited in accordance with the method of claim 1.

36. (New) A medical container as recited by claim 35, wherein said container is glass.

37. (New) A medical container as recited by claim 35, wherein said container is plastic.

38. (New) A medical container as recited by claim 35, wherein the lubricant is silicone.